



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

April 1, 2011

Mr. Isiah Leggett,  
County Executive  
101 Monroe Street  
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Mr. Leggett: *Ike*

We write today regarding the proposal for use of the Brickyard school site in Potomac. As you know, this matter has engendered quite a bit of turbulence among members of the community. Chief among their concerns was the lack of communication between our County government and the various interested parties regarding the decision to pursue soccer fields as the eventual use of the site. We regret that little notice of your intentions was given to the current lessee and even less notice was given to the broader community.

Consequently, we are pleased that Executive Branch staff will be hosting a series of public meetings to engage members of the community and to solicit their input, beginning with the meeting on April 4 at Potomac Elementary School. It is our hope that these meetings will facilitate a positive, constructive conversation in which key stakeholders are engaged and the fate of the site is brought to resolution with as close to a consensus as possible.

While we are aware of your strong commitment to using this site exclusively as soccer fields, and there is certainly no question that we need more ball fields in the downcounty, we nonetheless believe that a "win-win" scenario is still achievable. However, the current plan to install four fields, as currently contemplated, would require substantial parking on the site as well as involve a fairly intensive use in the heart of a residential community accessed by a road not particularly designed for such purposes. Concurrently, you may know that the current lessee is a nationally-renowned organic farmer who has expressed interest in modifying the terms of his lease so that he is permitted to provide educational opportunities related to organic farming.

We believe that both uses could be incorporated into the 20-acre site, adding to the County's inventory of ball fields and permitting the current use of the site to continue on a smaller scale. We would urge you and your staff to consider such an approach as you move forward with the public meetings you have scheduled. Although this matter does not come before the Council for a vote, we have received quite a bit of correspondence in support of various uses of the site. We believe a strategy that seeks consensus and a win-win will serve our constituents best.

Sincerely,

Roger Berliner  
District 1

George Leventhal  
At-Large

CC: David Dise, Director, Department of General Services  
Gabriel Albornoz, Director, Department of Recreation  
Jennifer Hughes, Office of the County Executive  
Ken Hartman, Director, Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center  
Ginny Barnes, President, West Montgomery County Citizens Association  
Nick Maravell

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